



# NEWS RELEASE

## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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From Speaker of the House Andy Tobin, R-Prescott (Dist. 01)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SPEAKER TOBIN WELCOMES NAVAJO CODE TALKERS TO THE HOUSE

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (July. 16, 2014) – Speaker of the House Andy Tobin welcomed six Navajo Code Talkers and their families to the chamber Wednesday, July 16, 2015, following a ceremonial bill signing with Governor Brewer, which recognizes Aug. 14 as Navajo Code Talkers’ Day.

“The bravery, patriotism and brilliance of the Navajo Code Talkers will remain a point of pride for Arizona and our nation for all time,” said Speaker Tobin. “The efforts of these men saved the lives of many.”

During World War II, 29 Navajo recruits developed an unbreakable code that was used to communicate information vital to battlefield commanders, particularly in the Pacific theater. The Code Talkers then used the code to relay commands particularly from ship to shore. The code was never broken and was not declassified until 1968.

Navajo Code talkers Peter MacDonald, George James, George Willie, Bahe Ketchum, Joe Kellwood and Dan Akee visited the House after the signing ceremony. Roy Hawthorne who attended the signing ceremony was unable to take the tour.

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Cameron (Dist. 07) and Sen. Carlyle Begay, D-Ganado (Dist. 07) also attended the ceremony and visit to the House.

Senate Bill 1099 designates Aug. 14 as Navajo Code Talkers’ Day.

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